How

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN Division 1

Hitchin 12 3 2 7 1824 11 2 0 Walton & H 20 3 116 1753 10 4 0 Bromley 19 3 115 12 39 10 3 0 *8 points deducted — Council decision 29/11/74

M'head Talbury Staines Harlow Chesham Wok'ham St. Albam Southall Horsham Hampton Avelry Car'ton Hertford Croydon Borelsam

C -- Cautions. D -- Dismissaft

Up to and including 26/11/74.



ROGER DAY

set-piece specialist

Challenge Trophy for the PETER DEADMAN first time in their 90 year . . . best around.

history, crashed out at the first hurdle on Saturday at Ilford's Newbury Park ground. And in going down 0-3, they fell to the heaviest defeat since September last year when they were beaten 1-4 at Walton.

WYCOMBE Wanderers

competing in the F.A.

With Wycombe's fine F.A. Cup run making the headlines at the moment, this competition the equivalent to the old Amateur Cup - may have little significance at the present time. It will be later on in the season. with the Blues inevitably knocked out of the F.A. Cup, that Saturday's failure will really start to bite.

And bearing in mind Wanderers' excellent cup matches of the past, the Challenge Trophy will be sorely

Before the match at liford, it was obvious Wycombe would have to be at their best to get through this difficult third qualifying round tie. In the first half they looked a better side than the home team, which contained no less than seven internationals. And yet after 45 minutes they were 0-2 down, two goalkeeping errors accounting for both goals. A Gary Hand own goal completed Wycombe's misery in the se-

cond half. And yet it could have all been so very different had two excellent chances been converted early in the game. They weren't, Ilford made the most of the ensuing errors and, in the end, finished up the superior side on the day. Wanderers should have learnt their lesson against liford a few weeks ago in a league game at Loakes Park. They paid for their mistakes on that day, drawing 3-3.

was announced, it looked as though the odds were stacked against them. Goalkeeper John Maskell was unfit due to a thigh injury and Tony Horseman was missing with flu. Young Brian Steventon, who had played only two friendlies for the Blues, was

Ilford centre back John Still, intercepting a long ball from the visitors' defence, only succeeded in giving possession to Holifield just outside the box. Mick ran through a startled defence and had time to switch the ball onto his favourite left foot. In those vital seconds, however, James

the superior team. With 27 minutes gone, chance number two came their way and was again wasted. Holifield broke clear on the left and his cross was headed on neatly by Perrin to Keith Searle. The centre forward had to take his shot first time but ballooned a volley high

So, having dominated and dictated the first 45 minutes. Wycombe found themselves trailing 2-0. Their chances of pulling back such a deficit seemed slim - and so it was to prove. The second period was far more even. Ilford playing a much greater part in events

llford continued to press, After four minutes of the new

half Steventon saved a Steve Barratt cross at the second attempt and then two minutes desperate straits later Bowhill went into the In the 85th minute Tony referee's book for handball. From the free kick just outside

who fired in a strong drive from an acute angle which James pushed over the bar.

against their finishing. After that close shave, Ilford stormed into attack forcing three quick corners. Turley twice almost forced his way through the middle and the setpieces certainly worried

Steventon who looked suspect with most of the crosses. In a bid to change Wycombe's fortunes, manager Brian Lee brought on Terry Reardon for Dave Alexander in the 65th minute and almost immediately Terry fired in a rising shot which flew narrowly over the top. Ilford hit back immediately through the speed of Turley.

field that Ilford scored the third

Butterfield screened the ball

nipped inside and ran on before unleashing a fierce shot which Steventon did well to parry. Then in the 78th minute, a Keith Mead back pass fell short and gave the ball to Barratt. Beating Steventon's dive, he pushed the ball across the box and it was only the covering of Gary Hand that prevented a third goal.

sending the ball deep into the area for Bass to test the goalkeeper. In the next 10 minutes they forced six corners which had the Blues' defence in

Gibson joined Barratt in the book for what the referee described afterwards as "a deliberate and dangerous foul." Gibson went in on Keith Mead and caught him badly on the shin. Keith was unable to con-tinue and had to be stretchered off. An X-ray after the game It was while he was off the

goal, from a corner in the 87th minute. Day curled the ball in on the left foot and under pressure from Butterfield, Hand tried to clear, but the ball went off his thigh and into his own net with Steventon helpless. The four minutes of injury

time added on by Mr Underwood only prolonged the agony for Wycombe who will do well to forget this game and get it completely out of their

WYCOMBE: B. Steventon, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, G. Hand, D. Alexender (sub T. Reardon 65 mins.), H. Kennedy, M. Holifleld, D. Evans, K. Saarle, S. Perrin.

ILFORD: P. James, D. Bowhill, P. Deadman, J. Still, R. Eaton, R. Day, A. Gibson, S. Barrett, J. Butterfield, A. Bass, A. Turley, Sub. P. Scott (not used) Referes: K. Underwood (Romford). Half-time: 0-2. Goslacorers, liford Turley (24), Bass (45), Hand o.g.





MICK HOLIFIELD

. . . crucial chance

Tonight's game is all pay, members having already had their five "free" friendlies this Ticket sales for next week's

on Swindon Town at Loakes Park tonight (Tuesday).

F.A. Cup tie with Bournemouth are going well. They are on sale at the clubhouse all this week until Thursday from 7.00-9.00 p.m. C block season ticket holders are reminded that their tickets for the match will not be retained after Thursday.

By STUART EARP: Ilford 3, Wycombe Wanderers 0

ERRORS PUT PAID

TO WANDERERS'

'TROPHY' HOPES

thrown in at the deep end against a side that has scored 10 more goals than any other club in the Rothmans Isthmian Wycombe continued to dic-League this season. Dylan Evans replaced Horseman.

made the first of two errors which were punished unmerci-fully by the home team. It is easy to criticise the 'keener, who is currently at Shoreditch College only a few miles from the Hford ground. He certainly was directly at fault with the first goal and contributed to the second as well as putting his own team-mates under pressure with poor goalkicks. Had he possessed a little more experience of soccer at this level, no doubt he would have had a happier day. But only time will give him that kind of experience which can win or lose matches and on the credit

side, he did make a couple of fine saves in the second half.

At first, things went well for Wanderers. Then Steventon

Wycombe started the game in great style and only two minutes had elapsed when Steve Perrin broke clear and ran 20 yards before slipping the ball to Evans. Dylan crossed well but goalkeeper Paul James, deputising for the injured Andy Williams, dived to cut the ball out. Ilford hit back with a corner which Steventon held and then in the fifth minute Wanderers had their best chance of the match.

ran off his line and managed to over the crossbar. parry the shot and save a certain

tate the first half with Keith Mead going close in the 12th minute. Three minutes later James gathered a 30 yard volley from Howard Kennedy and the 'keeper held another fine drive from the same player seconds At this stage, Wycombe were

dominating the middle of the field. Kennedy was getting up well to win the ball in the air while the front runners were combining sweetly in attack. The standard of the visitors' passing was excellent and repeatedly stretched the home defence. Ilford, so busy defending, could offer very little

Everything was going to plan for Wycombe until the 24th minute. Dennis Bowhill sent a hopeful 50 yard ball upfield for the front runners to chase. Steventon, however, was too quick for them and raced out well to dive and save as John Butterfield closed in. But just as the 'keeper rolled over, the ball slipped out of his hands and Tony Turley had the easy task of shooting into an empty net. Steventon held his head in

Despite the set-back, Wanderers continued to pressure Ilford and still looked the ball his own.

Undeterred Wycombe still threw everything forward and several of their best moves came to grief after Ilford fouls Referee Underwood would perhaps have done better to produce his notebook at this time rather than later in the game when two home players were cautioned

But with Peter Deadman playing a faultless game at centre back, Wycombe were frustrated time and again. All too often the fair haired defender would intercept the vital pass or be in the spot just at the right time to clear the ball away. Deadman must surely be one of the top defenders around at present.

Throughout the first half little or nothing had been seen of that "man mountain" Tony Bass. But in the last few seconds of injury time he towered onto the scene with a vengeance. With only seconds remaining before the interval. Deadman was fouled by Holifield. Roger Day floated over the free kick. Steventon came' out to his six yard line in a bid to punch the ball clear. Bass, however, was there first and sent a looping header bouncing over the uncould well have asked where his cover was on the line, but having come out, should have made

the box, Kennedy cleverly lofted the ball over the defensive wall to Evans, left unmarked for a crucial second. Dylan managed to deflect the ball goalwards but saw it bounce against the upright. The clearance came out to Kennedy

Evans' narrow miss summed up Wanderers' frustration, Certainly the ball just had not run right for them throughout the match. But, once again, the question mark was raised

Five first team WYCOMBE Wanderers stage their most attractive friendly of the season so far when they take